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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BULLETIN

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Notes.

On the evening of October 11 a reception was held at the Museum to the delegates and other visitors to the general convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church then in session. The reception was attended by about two thousand persons.

The School of the Museum reopened on October 3. On November 1 the number of pupils enrolled was 221, against 212 last year, including 60 in the Department of Design.

The conditions of admission to the Museum have recently been changed in the following particulars:

The Museum will in future be open free on all holidays, excepting Christmas Day, the Fourth of July, and Thanksgiving Day. On these three days it remains closed as heretofore.

It will be open upon Monday mornings, the hours of all week days becoming hereafter uniform: 9 A. M. to 5 P. M.

The Library and the Photograph Collection, which have hitherto been closed during Saturday and Sunday afternoons, will now be open at those times. An officer of the Museum will be in attendance. Visitors to the Museum are at all times welcome to the Library.

During the months of September and October the Museum was visited by 47,541 persons, or 1,052 less than in 1903, when the number was 48,593. In these two months there occurred nine Sundays as compared with eight in the previous year. Sunday visitors numbered 22,837 in September and October of this year, and 21,597 last year. The total number of visitors from the beginning of the present year is 207,794, as compared with 256,203 of a year ago.

The Funds of the Museum.

With the purchase of the portrait by Velazquez, which is announced in the present number of the BULLETIN, the money available from the unrestricted funds of the Museum for the purchase of works of art is practically exhausted, and no more

important acquisitions can be made from this source until it has been considerably increased by gifts or bequests. Indeed, the present purchase was made in anticipation of the receipt of Mrs. Sarah W. Whitman's bequest, because the exceptionally favorable nature of the opportunity seemed to warrant such action. For some time past it has been the policy of the Museum to spend a certain portion of the principal of its unrestricted funds in the acquisition of works of art, it being the belief of the Trustees that by so doing they could materially increase the importance and attractiveness of its collections, and thereby strengthen its claims upon the support of the community; and it has also been believed a wise policy to take advantage of opportunities which presented themselves to secure important works of past ages, as it is well known that these opportunities are constantly growing fewer, and prices are constantly increasing in consequence. There is, however, a limit beyond which such use of our capital cannot be made, as a considerable portion of it must be set aside to provide an income for the maintenance of the Museum. That limit has now been reached, and consequently, although opportunities of first-rate importance are by no means exhausted, the Museum cannot continue to profit by them until its endowment funds shall have been materially increased. It should be added that the building fund is kept on a separate account, and fortunately is not affected by the present situation.

Among the purchases which have been made with the unrestricted funds during the last ten years may be mentioned the greater part of the collection of Greek and Roman antiquities as it stands at present; the Sewall collection of prints, now known as the Harvey D. Parker collection; the recent important additions to the Egyptian Department, not exhibited yet for lack of space; the portrait of Count Alborghetti and his Son, by Moroni; Turner's Slave Ship; the Infant Don Baltazar and his Dwarf, by Velazquez; the Portrait of a Lady, by Franz Hals; the small figure of Justice attributed to Paul Veronese; Rembrandt's Study of an Old Man, his Danaë; and Copley's large portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Izard